



Library

# Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1958

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Wisbech

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting to you my report on the general health of the Borough for the past year, ending 31st December, 1958.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area 4,666 acres.

Estimated resident population mid-1958, 17,130.

Sum realised by a penny rate, £975:2:6.

Number of inhabited houses, about 5,470.

Rateable value, £249,205.

LIVE BIRTHS.	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate .....	280	131	149
Illegitimate .....	19	7	12
Birth rate per thousand of the estimated resident population mid-1958, 17.45.			

STILL BIRTHS.	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate .....	6	3	3
Illegitimate .....	0	0	0
Rate per thousand total (live and still) births, 20.06.			

DEATHS .....	246	140	106
Death rate per thousand of the estimated average population, 14.35.			

## DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES:—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis .....	0	0
Other puerperal causes .....	0	0

## DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE:—

All infants per 1,000 live births .....	20.06
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	21.42
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	0
Deaths from cancer (all ages) .....	40
Deaths from measles (all ages) .....	0
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages) .....	0
Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years of age) .....	0
Deaths from motor vehicle accidents .....	1
Deaths from lung cancer .....	10

The comparable figures for town of approximately the same size are as follows:—

Birth rate per 1,000 .....	16.2
Death rate per 1,000 .....	15.4
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age .....	28.4

In the Borough there is a School Clinic, a Tubercular Clinic, two General Hospitals, a Hospital for chronic sick and aged female patients, and an Orthopaedic Clinic held weekly at the North Cambs. Hospital. Infectious Diseases are accommodated at Peterborough and East Dereham Isolation Hospitals

Excellent Motor Ambulance facilities are available, whilst Diphtheria Antitoxin and Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are provided when necessary.

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The duties connected with this are carried out by the M.O.H. who is a part time officer, the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, the Borough Senior and additional Public Health Inspectors, all full time officers, together with those of the Council's employees who are specially needed for sanitary work.

## INFANT AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Infant and Child Welfare Clinic in Norwich Road is held weekly on Friday afternoons and is well attended.

## WELFARE ATTENDANCES FOR 1958

Number of children who attended during year .....	470
Number of children who attended for the first time, and who at their first attendance were under one year .....	201
Number of children attending born in 1957... ..	133
Number of children attending born 1953-56 ... ..	136
Total number of attendances made by children during the year:—	
1. Under 1 year of age .....	1820
2. 1 year of age but under 2 years .....	1950
3. 2 years of age but under 5 years .....	1258
Total ... ..	5028

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of children under the age of 5 years who have completed a full course of immunisation against Diphtheria during year .....	143
Between the ages of 5 - 9 years .....	14



## HOUSING.

### FUTURE REQUIREMENTS.

Applicants on waiting list at end of year... 362

### BUILDING.

#### Houses completed in 1958:—

Wisbech Corporation ..... 87

Private Enterprise ..... 20

Total post war houses completed and occupied ..... 991

#### Work in hand:—

Wisbech Corporation ..... 14

Private Enterprise ..... 22

## WATER.

### CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS.

#### 1. BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 22°C.
Colonies on Yeastrel agar per ml.	1	1	2
Presumptive coliform count, absent from 100 mls Bact. coli (Type 1 faecal), absent from 100 mls.			

#### 2. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS.

Appearance — Clear and bright

Turbidity — Nil

Colour — Nil

ph. 7.2

Odour — normal

Taste — normal

#### 3. CHEMICAL ANALYSIS (expressed as parts per mil.)

Free CO<sub>2</sub> ..... 18.0

Oxygen dissolved ..... 7.89 (86% sat.)

Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs. at 37°C) ..... 0.21

Nitrogen Ammoniacal ..... 0.177

Nitrogen Albuminoid ..... 0.027

Nitrogen Nitrate ..... 7.56 (32.7 as NO<sub>3</sub>)

Nitrogen Nitrite ..... Nil

Alkalinity ..... 199

Hardness Carbonate ..... 199

Hardness Non-carbonate ..... 79

Hardness Total ..... 278

Monochloramine

FREE CHLORINE ..... 0.45

Total Solids (180°C) ..... 387

Aluminium (Al) ..... Nil

Calcium (Ca) ..... 91.8

Iron (Fe) ..... Very slight trace

Magnesium (Mg) ..... 14.0

Manganese (Mn) ..... Nil

Lead (Pb) ..... Nil

Sodium (Na) (Cale) ..... 10.7

Zinc (Zn) ..... Nil

Silica (SiO<sub>2</sub>) ..... 7.0

Sulphate (S.O.<sub>4</sub>) ..... 38.5

Carbonate (CO<sub>3</sub>) ..... 119.4

Chloride (Cl) ..... 31.3

Fluoride (F) ..... 0.05

#### 4. GENERAL REMARKS.

This sample was taken at a time when for a trial period ammonia was being added to the supply to stabilize the chlorine residual. The above results indicate a pure and wholesome water, on the alkaline side of neutrality, not plumbo solvent, and with no excess of mineral constituents in solution.

The water both chemically and bacteriologically is suitable as a public supply for drinking and domestic purposes.

#### EXTENSIONS TO MAINS.

Walton Road Housing Site ..... 3" S.I. 12 yds

Horticultural Institute ..... 2" A.C. 147 yds

Townshend Road ..... 3" S.I. 38 yds

Church Road, Walsoken ..... 3" S.I. 110 yds

River Crossing Augmen. Main 6" S.I. 39 yds

Norwich Road — Clarkson

Avenue interconnections ..... 3" S.I. 190 yds

Crooked Bank, South Brink ... 3" A.C. 627 yds

Marsh Walk ..... 2" A.C. 30 yds

Oldfield Lane ..... 6" S.I. 276 yds

Bodger's Field Housing Site ... 3" S.I. 53 yds

Mount Drive Housing Site ..... 3" S.I. 231 yds

NUMBER OF CONNECTIONS MADE ..... 103

#### FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948.

##### PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health inspectors).





# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority .....	23	12	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	100	72	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) .....	6	6	—	—
Total	129	90	—	—

	<i>Total cases Notified</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
Smallpox .....	0	0
Scarlet fever .....	4	0
Diphtheria .....	0	0
Pneumonia .....	12	16
Erysipelas .....	2	0
Puerperal pyrexia .....	0	0
Enteric fever .....	1	0
Measles .....	6	0
Acute Encephalitis .....	0	0
Whooping cough .....	14	0
Paratyphoid fever .....	2	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis .....	0	0
Food poisoning .....	0	0
Dysentery .....	1	0

## 2. Cases in which defects were found.

Number of cases in which defects were found

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred</i>		
			<i>To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H. M. Inspector</i>	<i>Number of Prosecutions instituted</i>
Want of cleanliness .....	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation .....	2	2	—	2	—
Ineffective drainage of floors...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences —					
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	6	6	—	2	—

## NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

<i>Age periods</i>	<i>New cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0
35	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3	6	0	0	1	1	0	0

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Very faithfully yours,

H. LESLIE GROOM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
Medical Officer of Health.



# Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector for the Year 1958

Public Health Department,  
Exchange Square, Wisbech.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Wisbech

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my second Annual Report on the Environmental Health Services for the year 1958.

The establishment remained the same as in the previous year ; Mr. D. G. H. Bruce, Additional Public Health Inspector gaining the added qualification for Meat Inspectors in March

Two surveys were undertaken during the year ; the first to gain information regarding the number of dwelling-houses without proper water closets, inside piped water supply and wash-up sinks. Secondly with the full implementation of the Clean Air Act, visits were made to all horticultural, commercial and industrial premises to publicise the needs for a cleaner atmosphere.

I wish to record my thanks to the staff and my appreciation of the confidence and support of the Public Health Committee together with the co-operation of all other Departments.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

D. BROOK, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.C.,

*Senior Public Health Inspector.*

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

### A — INSPECTIONS

#### PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Complaints investigated .....	188
Revisits to premises .....	233
Works in progress .....	187
Drainage inspections .....	155
Drains tested .....	45
Caravan sites .....	190
Infectious Disease .....	51
Common Lodging Houses .....	19
Sanitary Survey .....	2131

#### HOUSING ACT.

Inspected and recorded .....	108
Revisits .....	100
Works in progress .....	74
Municipal Housing Applications .....	34

#### RENT ACT.

Dwelling-houses inspected .....	89
Revisits .....	134

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Slaughterhouses .....	1206
Knackers Yard .....	14
Food Shops .....	115

Food preparation premises .....	39
Ice Cream premises .....	33
Dairy premises .....	11
Market stalls .....	122

#### SHOPS ACT.

Inspections .....	37
Revisits .....	3

#### FACTORY ACT.

Inspections .....	71
Revisits .....	19

#### CLEAN AIR ACT.

Inspections and observations .....	69
Revisits .....	28

#### RODENT CONTROL.

Inspections .....	118
Revisits .....	82

## B—SUMMARY OF REPAIRS AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

### EXTERNAL REPAIRS.

Roofs repaired .....	51
Eaves gutters renewed or repaired .....	39
Rainwater pipes renewed or repaired .....	19
Chimney stacks repaired .....	4
Walls repointed .....	92
Windows repaired .....	17





## INTERNAL REPAIRS.

Ceilings replastered .....	35
Walls replastered .....	61
Internal waterproofing to walls .....	48
Floors renewed or repaired .....	16
Fireplaces renewed or repaired .....	12
Burst water pipes repaired .....	7

## DRAINAGE AND SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

Drains and sewers cleansed from obstruction ...	120
Drains repaired or renewed .....	31
Inspection chambers rebuilt .....	5
Sink waste pipes renewed or repaired .....	14
Closet buildings repaired .....	4
Flushing cisterns repaired .....	9
W.C. pedestals renewed .....	12
Closets converted to fresh water carriage system	6

## NUISANCES.

Offensive accumulations removed .....	4
Nuisances from animal keeping abated .....	2
Defective dustbins renewed .....	29

## WATER SUPPLY

### PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

The Borough of Wisbech is supplied with water from the Wisbech and District Water Board, the Manager has made available regular monthly summaries of routine bacteriological samples taken in the Borough. Occasional samples have been submitted by the Health Inspectors for examination by the Public Health Laboratory.

	<i>Samples submitted</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>
Water Board .....	207	207	Nil
Public Health Dept. ...	16	14	2

The unsatisfactory samples arose from lack of routine cleansing of supply taps in slaughterhouses.

## SANITARY SURVEY OF BOROUGH

The survey revealed that there are approximately 5,300 separate dwellings, 360 houses having external closets without flushing cisterns, 35 houses have pail or vault closets within a reasonable distance of a main water supply and existing sewer, 383 houses are without internal wash-up sinks and 246 houses are without internal piped water. In the aggregate one or other of these deficiencies was present in 588 houses ; of these, 264 houses are within potential slum clearance or redevelopment areas.

## FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION

### MILK SUPPLY.

#### REGISTRATION AND LICENSING.

There are 37 names on the Register of Distributors of Milk.

At the end of the year there were on the Register :  
8 Dealers and 7 supplementary Licences for the sale of "Pasteurised Milk".

6 Dealers and 5 Supplementary Licences for the sale of "Tuberculin Tested Milk".

9 Dealers and 4 Supplementary Licences for the sale of "Sterilised Milk".

During the year the final step was taken to ensure a safe milk supply within this area, all supplies for consumption to be either Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised.

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

12 samples of milk were taken in the Borough by your Officers for examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Peterborough.

<i>Type of Milk</i>	<i>Methylene Blue Test</i>		<i>Phosphate Test</i>		<i>Turbidity Test</i>	
	<i>Sat.</i>	<i>Unsat.</i>	<i>Sat.</i>	<i>Unsat.</i>	<i>Sat.</i>	<i>Unsat.</i>
Tuberculin Tested	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised	7	—	7	—	—	—
T.T. Past.	3	—	3	—	—	—
Sterilised	—	—	—	—	2	—
Total ...	10	—	10	—	2	—

## SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS AND MEAT INSPECTION

The slaughter of animals for food continued in the seven establishments, the programme following a similar pattern to last year except for a slight decline.

Discussions were held with representatives of the meat and allied interests concerning the future of slaughtering having regard to the new Hygiene and Cruelty Regulations. Preliminary negotiations towards reaching an agreement with the Fatstock Marketing Corporation commenced during the year, having in mind a municipal abattoir in which the Fatstock Marketing Corporation may be the Council's agents and contractor.



NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED DURING YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1958

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Sows and Boars
Number killed .....	1,776	347	10	3,194	8,289	1,307
Number inspected .....	1,776	347	10	3,194	8,289	1,307
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis:						
Whole carcasses condemned .....	8	2	2	14	46	9
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	221	57	—	50	710	115
Percentage of the number inspected affected by disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis .....	12·9%	17%	20%	2%	9·12%	9·48%
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned .....	6	5	—	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	92	56	—	—	74	17
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .....	5·52%	17·58%	—	—	0·9%	1·3%
Cysticercosis:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	5	1	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration .....	2	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total number of animals slaughtered 14,923

CAUSES FOR CONDEMNATION.

	lbs.
Tuberculosis .....	14,363
Other Diseases .....	22,448
	<u>36,811</u>

CARCASES ADMITTED TO KNACKERS YARD  
YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1958.

Horses .....	17
Cattle excluding cows.....	40
Cows .....	17
Calves .....	20

LICENCES.

37 persons were licensed to slaughter animals.

There is one Knackers Yard in the Borough with a small throughput ; structural alterations were carried out to make one section of the establishment identifiable as the place in which carcasses were flayed and cut up ; the walls were made impervious, a new floor constructed and hand washing facilities provided. No live animal is admitted to the premises.





## FOOD HYGIENE

The following tabulated list gives the number of the various types of food premises in the Borough.

Bakehouses .....	15
Cafes and Canteens .....	14
Grocers and General Mixed Stores .....	80
Greengrocers .....	18
Fishmongers .....	6
Fried Fish Shops .....	16
Sweet Shops .....	24
Butchers .....	34
Sweet Manufacturers .....	1
Food Factories .....	6
Wholesale Fruit Merchants (processors) .....	13
Flour Millers and Granary .....	2
Licensed Premises .....	61
Licensed Clubs .....	8
Ice Cream Manufacturers .....	1
Market Stalls .....	34
Confectioners .....	24

Steady progress has been maintained to encourage the clean handling of food ; wherever possible the Public Health Inspectors have used every opportunity to make suggestions during informal discussions. Many market stall holders petitioned the Council for a constant supply of running hot water to be provided in the Borough Market Public Conveniences, but having regard to all matters involved the Council decided to ask individual traders to maintain a supply on their stalls.

Wisbech is noted as a centre of fruit production and one notices the vast increase in the amount of soft fruit which is now preserved by deep freeze for consumption at a later stage. Wherever such process is carried out it is essential to have adequate hand washing facilities ; these were available in the permanent factories but absent from three of the four temporary premises which come into use each season.

List of improvements and unsatisfactory conditions remedied in Food Premises.

Hot water provided .....	7
Wash hand basins provided .....	13
Ceilings and walls cleansed and repaired .....	22
Floors repaired .....	4

## UNSOUND FOOD.

The following foodstuffs, apart from meat in slaughterhouses, found unfit and surrendered.

### TINS.

Meat .....	35
Fruit .....	146
Vegetables .....	24
Soup .....	9
Fish .....	11
Milk and cream .....	14
—	239
—	—

## FROZEN FOODS.

### PACKETS.

Fish .....	175½ doz.
Vegetables .....	831 doz.
Vol-au-vent .....	9 doz.
Sausages .....	8 lbs.
Brussels Sprouts .....	4 ton 6 cwts.

### VARIOUS.

Potatoes .....	5 tons 3 cwts.
Chicory .....	22 lbs.
Bloaters .....	2 stones

## ICE CREAM.

93 premises are registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955, 1 for manufacture, storage and sale, and 92 for the storage and sale of ice cream. Most ice cream is sold prepacked but contacts were made during the summer months with the various vehicles which run around the town during the evenings to impress the need of clean handling.

A total of 9 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination by the Methylene Blue Test with the following results:—

<i>No. of samples submitted</i>	<i>Grade I</i>	<i>Grade II</i>	<i>Grade III</i>	<i>Grade IV</i>
9	8	1	Nil	Nil

## ICED LOLLIES.

1 sample of iced lolly was submitted for bacteriological examination, and found satisfactory.

## CLEAN AIR ACT.

A special survey was carried out which included courtesy visits to all premises on which fuel burning appliances were being used for horticultural, commercial or industrial purposes together with the local hospitals. No insuperable problem was encountered and co-operation was generally excellent. Several automatic stokers have been installed and also changes of fuel made, which will ensure efficient boiler house practice, together with clean air. One large factory has not decided how best to deal with their individual problem: a suggestion was made which would involve lower throughput, but I sincerely hope that common sense will prevail to bring about a more satisfactory solution to abate the conditions which arise when peak demands are made on the boilers in autumn for space heating and processing. Next autumn and winter will show the improvements or otherwise in the emissions from the short chimneys at the fruit pulp factories and the hospitals. Mention of these details indicates that our efforts are directed towards making a comparatively clean air more clean.





Domestic chimneys present their picture in late autumn and winter time. The scene of overhanging mist and smoke may well be noticed on approaching the Borough. Two positive steps are in hand to break down this part of the pollution. All new Council houses are constructed with firegrates capable of burning smokeless fuel although it is the minority of tenants who use such fuel. Further a Building Byelaw was extended to enforce the installation of smokeless appliances in all new domestic property.

#### HOUSING.

Gradual progress was made with the Slum Clearance Programme. This would appear likely to become retarded as revealed by the fact that only 14 new Council houses were under construction at the end of 1958. The

Slum Clearance problem will remain with us for a considerable time if alternative accommodation only comes forward in small batches. The prospect of using land in and adjacent to unfit areas has now received further consideration and the Borough Engineer is preparing schemes for the George Street/Napier Terrace area and the Agenoria Street/Trafalgar Row area. The former will include a number of fit houses, but in a compact borough there appears little alternative but to make the best use of such land to the benefit of the town as a whole.

A slight change has been made in the approach to dealing with individual unfit houses ; before the formal consideration, an opportunity is given to interested persons to discuss the situation informally with the Public Health Committee, which is a particular benefit where an undertaking is likely to be involved.

### HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE Return for year ending 31-12-58

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED		Displaced during year	
		Houses demolished	Persons Families
IN CLEARANCE AREAS			
1. Houses unfit for human habitation .....	10	29	7
2. Houses included by reason of bad arrangement etc.	—	—	—
3. Houses on land acquired under Sec. 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957 .....	—	—	—
NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS			
4. As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec. 17 (1), Housing Act, 1957 .....	5	4	2
5. Local authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health .....	13	88	29
6. Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local acts .....	—	—	—
7. Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders .....	—	—	—
B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED		Displaced during year	
		Number	Persons Families
8. Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957 .....	5	26	7
9. Under Sections 17 (3), and 26, Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
10. Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957 .....	2	6	2
C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED			
		By owner	By Local Authority
11. After informal action by Local Authority .....	85	—	—
12. After formal notice under :—			
(a) Public Health Acts .....	—	—	—
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957 ...	—	—	—
13. Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957 .....	—	—	—



Demolition of individual unfit houses took place at :

- 35 Brigstock Road
- 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 Bannisters Row
- 1, 2 and 3 Clare's Passage
- 1, 2 and 3 Cannon Street
- 46 Duke Street
- 35a Elm Road
- 2, 7, 8 and 9 East Street
- 16 Golding Street
- 16 and 17 Kirkgate Street
- 93, 95, 177, 327 and 329 Lynn Road
- 4 The Low, North Brink
- 1 and 2 North Terrace
- 3, 4 and 6 Oil Mill Lane.

The following houses were closed :—

- 2 Bartlett's Yard
- 1 Cook's Passage
- 5 Ely Place (basement)
- 34 Kirkgate Street
- 82 Norwich Road (basement)
- 17 North Street
- 1 Raithby Place.

#### RENT ACT, 1957

The spate of enquiries and work which followed the early days of this Act has subsided somewhat and now continues at a steady level, good use being made of the provisions.

#### RETURN FOR THE YEAR 1958.

1. Number of applications for Certificates .....	55
2. Number of decisions not to issue certificates...	Nil
3. Number of decisions to issue certificates :	
(a) in respect of some but not all defects ...	38
(b) in respect of all defects .....	18
4. Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule .....	58
5. Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule .....	6
6. Number of certificates issued .....	23
7. Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates .....	26
8. Objections by tenants to cancellation of Certificates .....	9
9. Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection .....	5
10. Certificates cancelled by Local Authority .....	22

#### CARAVANS

The prospects of additional private permanent sites within the Borough seem imminent. This type of living is favoured as a permanent measure by a small percentage only ; the remaining occupants rush to secure what must be a stop-gap home either following marriage or subsequent to eviction from tied cottages ; these latter types are regular callers seeking municipal housing.

The unauthorised use of green droves remains a problem. One such lane off Meadowgate Lane has been used by a motley collection of itinerant scrap dealers since the end of potato lifting, the spoils of their occupation providing adequate camouflage for the hidden vans. One other lane received special action by the Borough Council, in an attempt to improve the position, the prevailing unhealthy conditions being represented before the local magistrates who made an Order which was broad enough to authorise your Council to take any step to move the vans and prevent their continued use under conditions devoid of a water supply, sanitary closet accommodation, disposal of waste water and storage of refuse. One van was moved, only to come to rest in the immediate neighbouring county ; the two occupants have since died and the van has gone up in flames. The remaining vans were not so mobile and the human element forbade your staff from pressing on with force ; it is hoped that some compromise can be brought about with the County Welfare Department to deal with the matter.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

These services are under the direct control of the Borough Engineer, but close liaison is maintained between the two Departments. A regular weekly collection service is given throughout the Borough. Many defective dustbins were noticed during the Sanitary Survey and informal notices were sent to owners. Refuse disposal is by means of controlled tipping carried out on a low-lying site outside the Borough. The exceptionally wet weather in the latter part of the year made operations most difficult with the site often under water.

#### SHOPS ACT.

There appears to be no cases of employment of adult or young persons outside the regulated times and days. On the other hand trading outside prescribed closing times occurs at many establishments, but the difficulty of tracking down an illicit sale has to give way to more important duties.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The incidence of infectious diseases did not create any undue problems except in connection with the outbreak of enteric disorders among the Italian girls at the hostel of a local food factory. The management were exceptionally co-operative in the organisation of the 'screening' of all the occupants of the hostel and persons engaged in the handling of food for immediate consump-





tion ; special equipment was designed to assist in overcoming the private difficulties of 70 foreign girls living communally in hutments. The Borough Council made unsuccessful representations to the Minister of Health to secure the ban on food manufacturers entering into new contracts to import foreign labour from countries in which enteric disorders are endemic. More strict medical enquiries were promised during the examination of future recruits at the time of engagement. Nevertheless the local firm are making their own arrangements to 'screen' next year's intake from Italy, on arrival at the factory hostel, prior to their commencing duties as food handlers.

## GENERAL

Matters arising from the Factories Act (including the issue of Certificates of Means of Escape from Fire), Pet Animals Act, Agricultural Gangs Act and Rodent Control have been efficiently carried out, at the same time keeping a watchful eye over the activities in the Port of Wisbech.

### PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL.

During the summer season when the Public Open Air Swimming Pool was in use, 8 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and 7 were found satisfactory.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for 12 months ended 31st December, 1958

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				5. Agricul- tural
	1. Local Authority	2. Dwelling- houses inc. Council houses	3. All other including business premises	4. Total of Cols. 1, 2 and 3	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	36	5477	1194	7007	157
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification .....	—	95	21	116	2
(b) Survey under the Act .....	36	994	133	1163	16
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose) .....	—	118	72	190	—
3. Total inspections carried out—including re-in- spections (to be completed only if figures are readily available) .....	271	Not readily available			
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. II) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats — Major .....	3	—	—	3	—
Minor .....	5	71	21	97	2
(b) Mice — Major .....	—	—	—	—	—
Minor .....	2	164	5	171	—
5. Number of infested properties (in Sec. IV) treated by the Local Authority .....	10	235	26	271	2
6. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out ...	—	7	—	7	—



# WISBECH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

## SECTION II — AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR

TABLE B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected by P.H.I.	Number of Ships reported as having or having had, during voyage, infectious disease on board
Foreign ports .....	78	17,332 N.R. 30,714 Cargo	78	Nil
Coastwise .....	140	20,083 N.R. 47,006 Cargo	63	Nil
Total .....	218	37,415 N.R. 77,720 Cargo	141	Nil

## SECTION III — CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR

TABLE C

### Passenger Traffic

Number of passengers — Inwards: Nil

Number of passengers — Outwards: Nil

### Cargo Traffic —

Principal Imports: Petrol, oil, grain, timber, fruit, potatoes.

Principal Exports: Grain, bricks, basic slag, coke breeze, fire clay.

